

From: Michael J. Huan
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 5:19pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to register my disgust with the proposed settlement with Microsoft.

1) Microsoft is GUILTY of abusing its monopoly position in the operating system market. Yet the settlement allows Microsoft to expand and promote that monopoly in schools. The settlement would do better to require Microsoft to provide and support Linux or FreeBSD in the schools instead so as to create a truly more competitive market.

2) The settlement does nothing to protect or promote the rights of parties that do not meet Microsoft's criteria for being an authentic or viable business. The settlement denies both the government and non-commercial or not-for-profit software development organizations any rights to complain, to seek redress, or to bargain about access to the information needed to properly interoperate with Windows. This should be available to anyone who wants it. Microsoft should NOT be able to decide who it will or will not provide this information.

Where in this settlement is the punishment appropriate to the crime?

NOWHERE

Where in this settlement is the compensation to the victims of the crime?

NOWHERE

Where in this settlement are there assurances to protect the vulnerable and to deter the culpable? NOWHERE if you are not a Microsoft-approved business.

This settlement is a capitulation to the criminal and an abandonment of the people and interests the law should be protecting.

In this case, the government needs some spine.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Huan <mjh@huan.org>